Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA) Statement on the Shuttle Columbia Catastrophe Saturday, February 1, 2003

"Today's shuttle catastrophe is a tremendous loss for the world and a deep and profound tragedy for the families of these brave, courageous explorers. The safety record of shuttle missions has become so good that the public had begun to take for granted what astronauts and their families never forget - that space travel is inherently dangerous. These seven heroes had carried out yet another path breaking scientific mission sure to advance our understanding of the universe forever. They were on their way home. My sincere condolences go out to their families and friends. America grieves with all of you."